

Characteristics and Relative Risk of Occupational Fatalities of Hispanic Construction Workers

*NIEHS Technical Workshop
Research Triangle Park, NC*

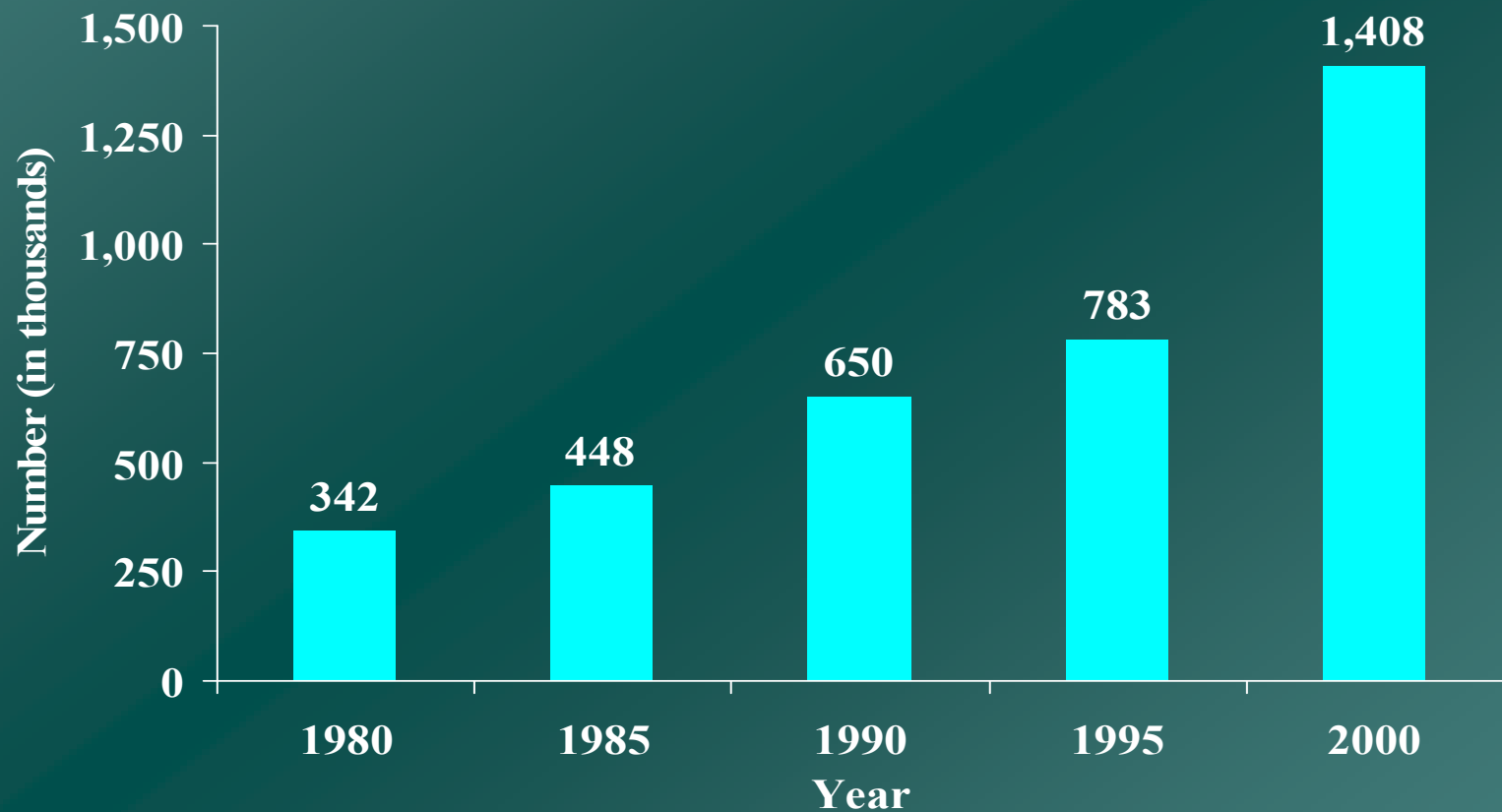
December 3-5, 2003

*The Center to Protect Workers' Rights
James Platner and Sue Dong*

Profile of Hispanic workers in construction

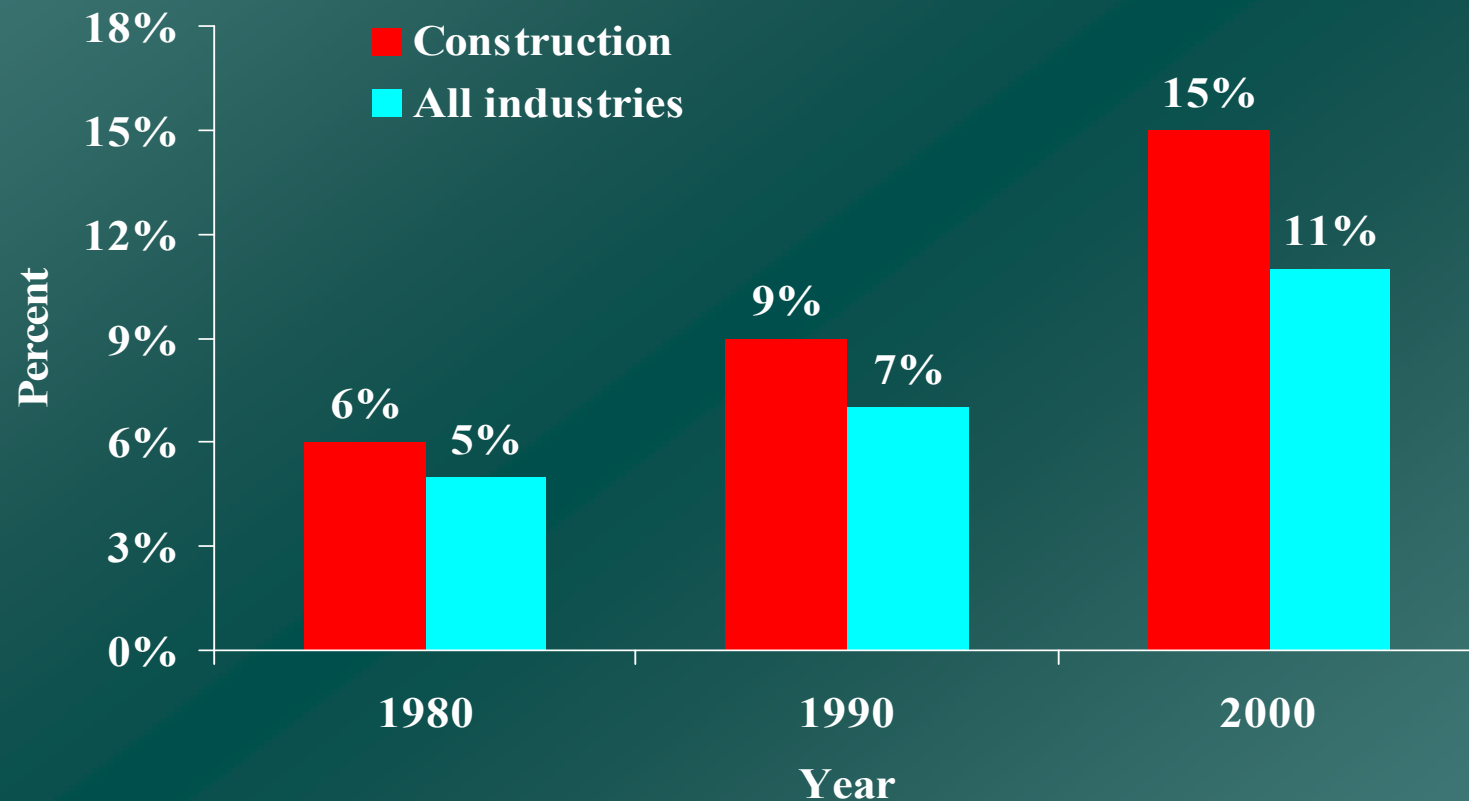
- 1.4 million Hispanic workers in construction in 2000, 15% of the total construction workforce; a 312% increase between 1980-2000
- >25% construction workers are Hispanic in the West
- 20% of total fatal occupational injuries occurred in construction
- Hispanic construction fatalities nationally more than doubled from 1992 to 2000 (108-278)

Number of Hispanic workers in construction, selected years 1980-2000



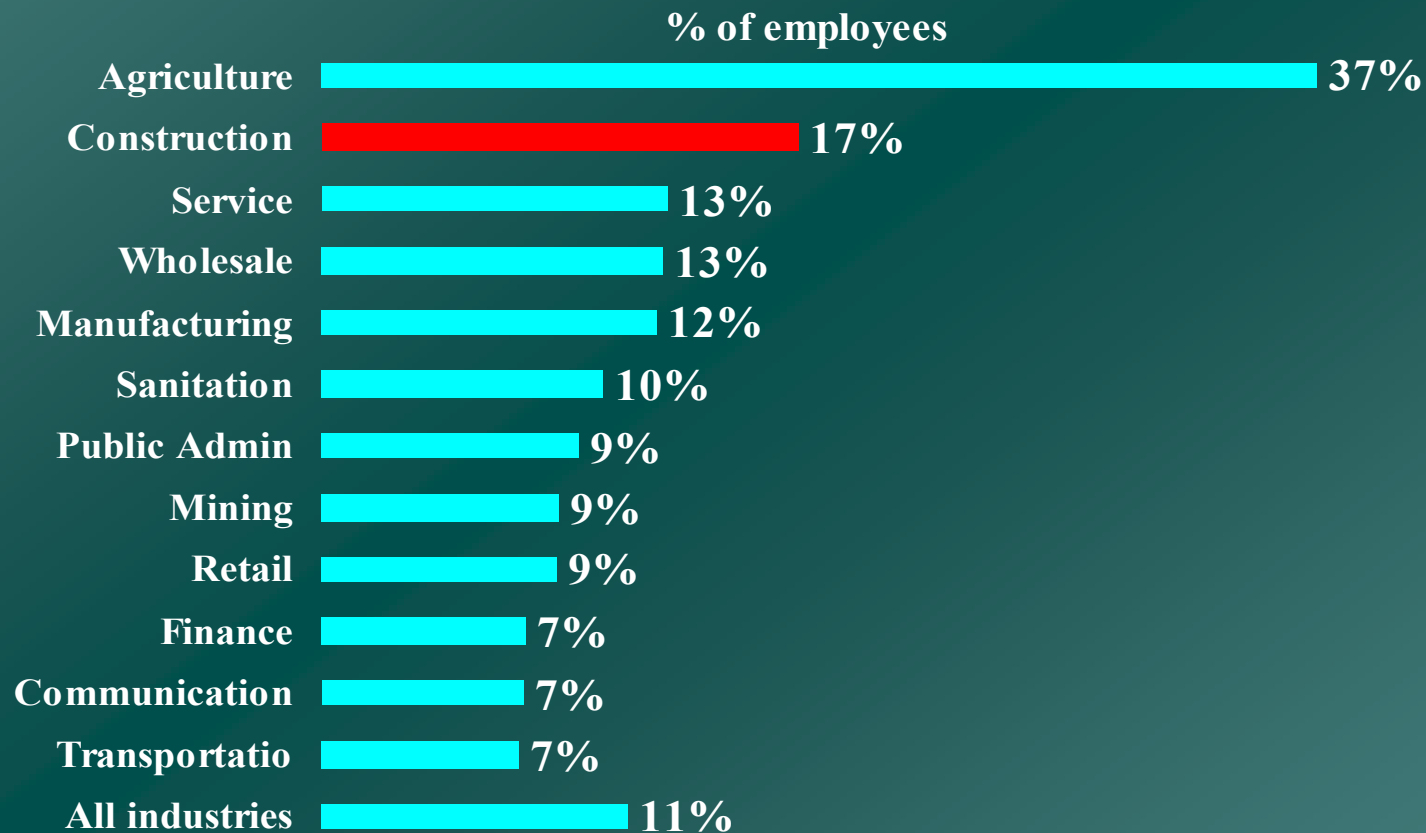
Source: Current Population Survey, 2000 and previous years.

Hispanic workers as a percentage of construction & all industries, selected years, 1980-2000 (All types of employment)



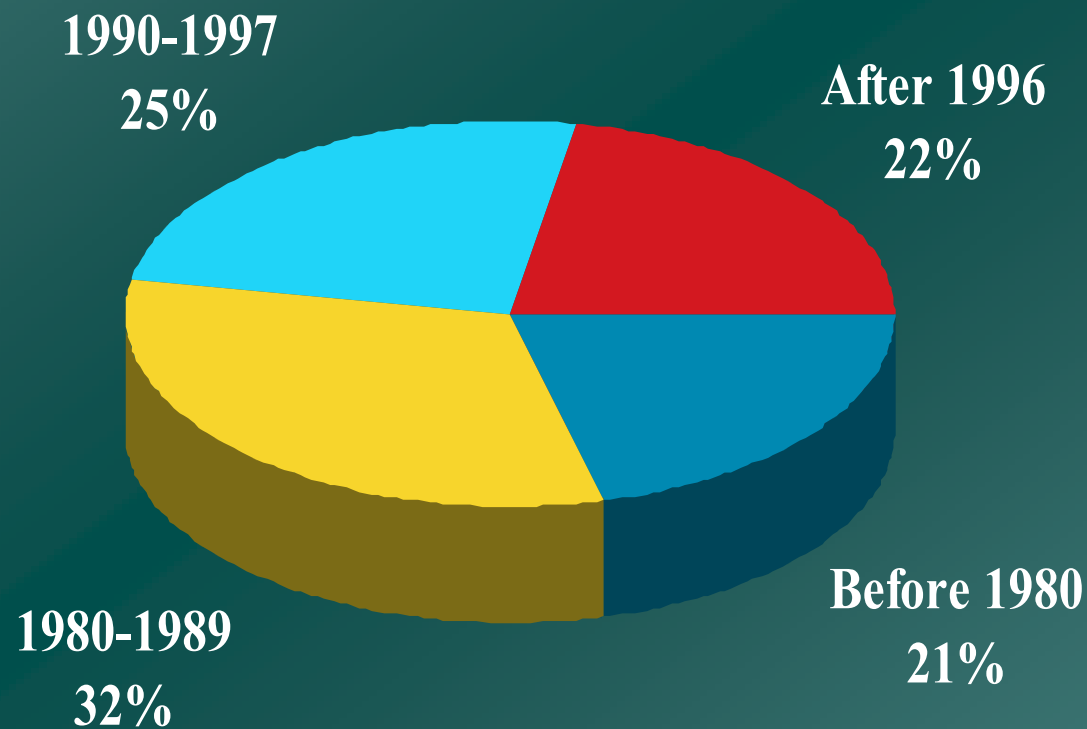
Source: Current Population Survey, 1980, 1990, and 2000.

Hispanic workers as a percentage of each industry, 2000 (Wage-and-salary workers)

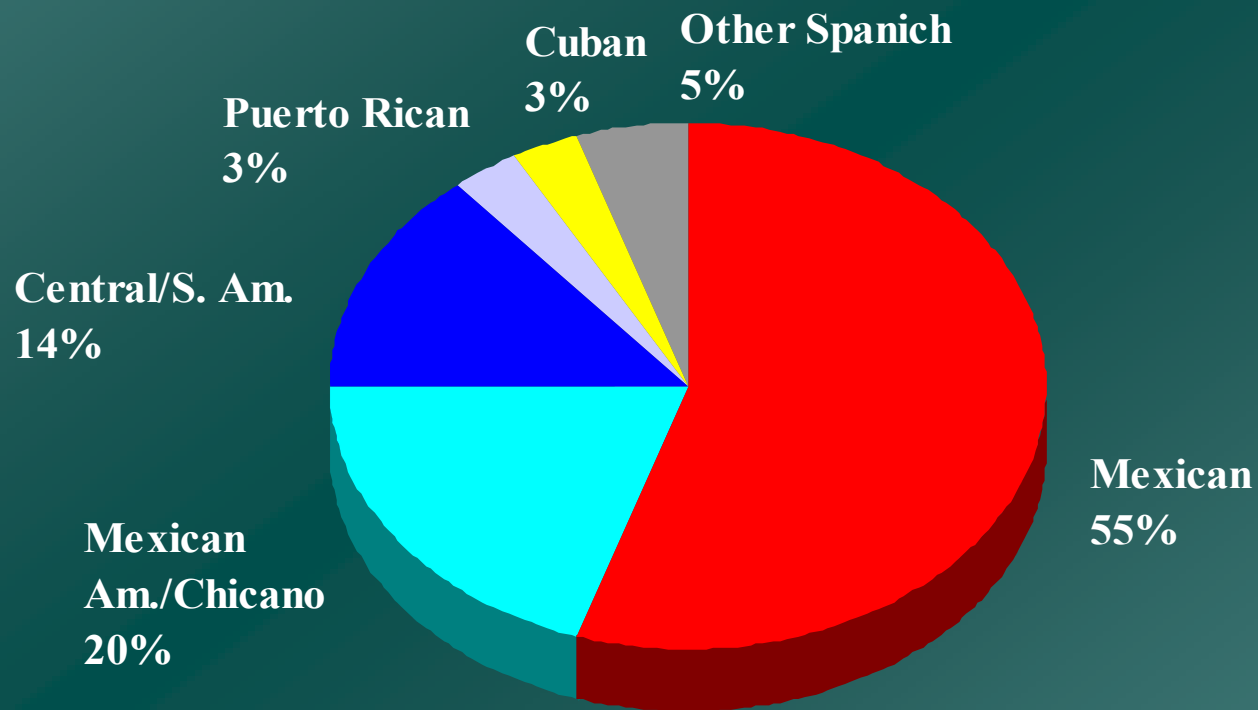


Source: Current Population Survey, 2000.

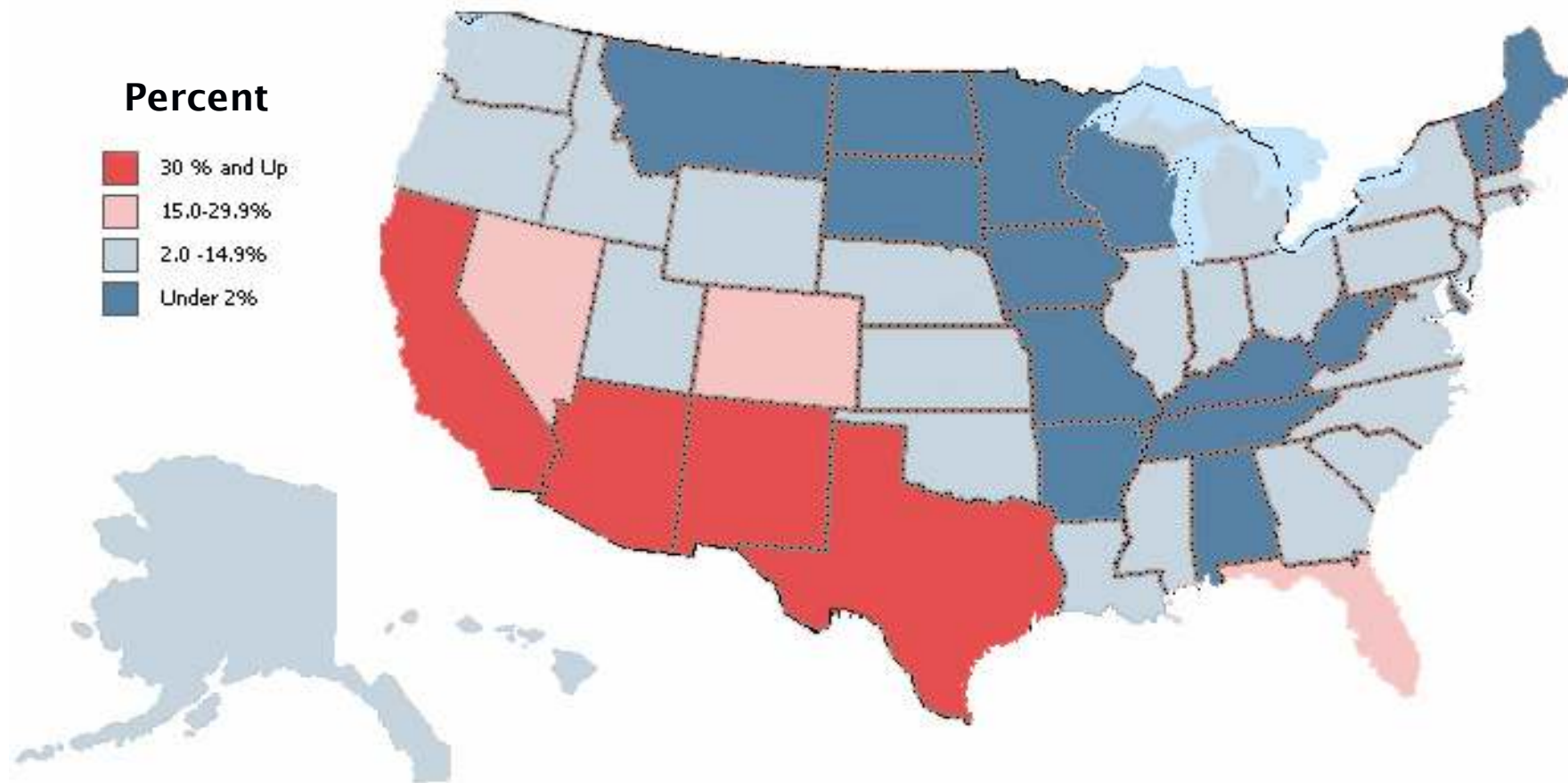
Date of entry the U.S. for Hispanic construction workers (Non-citizen only)



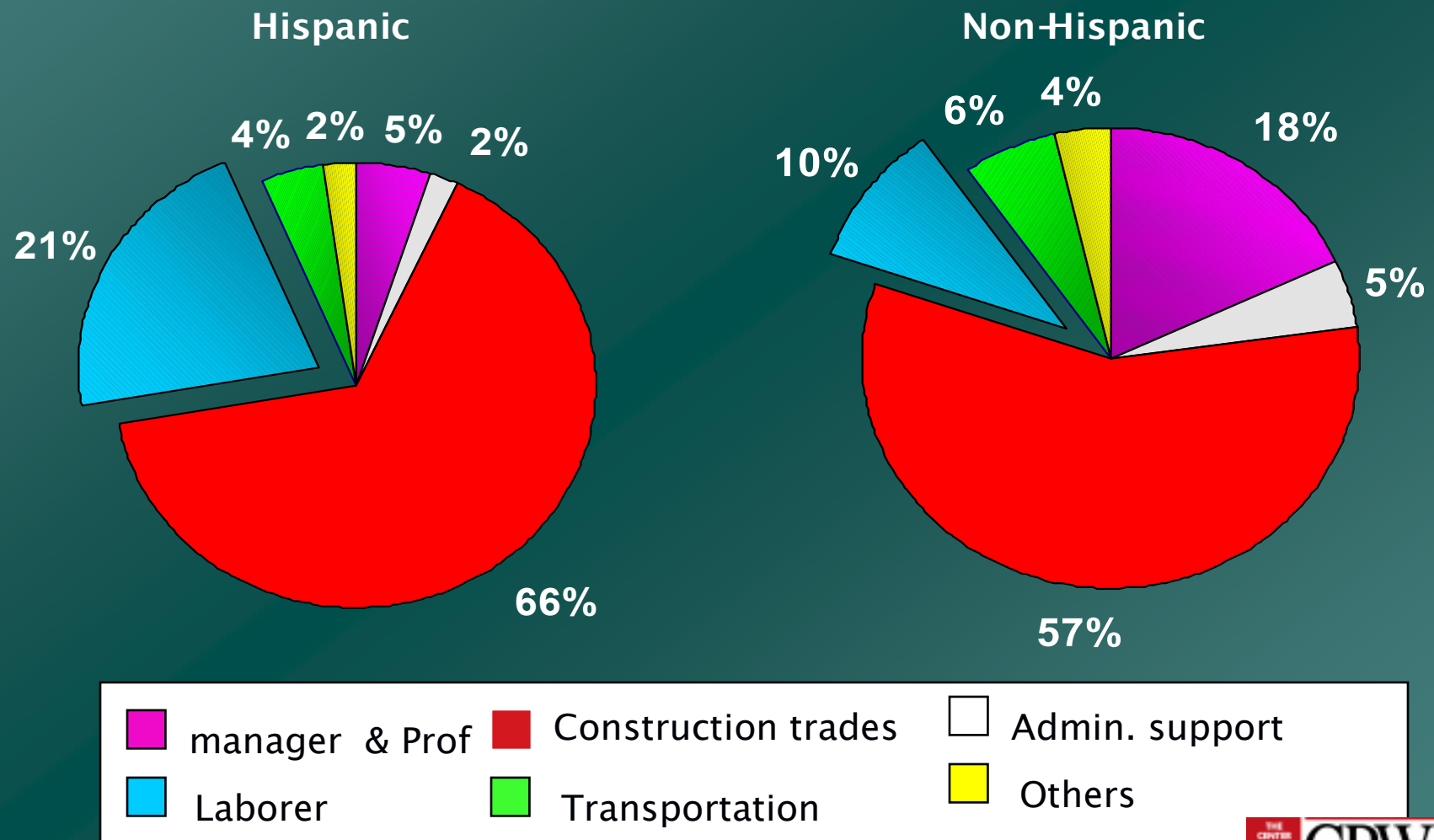
Hispanic construction workers, by country of origin, 2000



Construction Workers as Hispanic by State 1998-2000



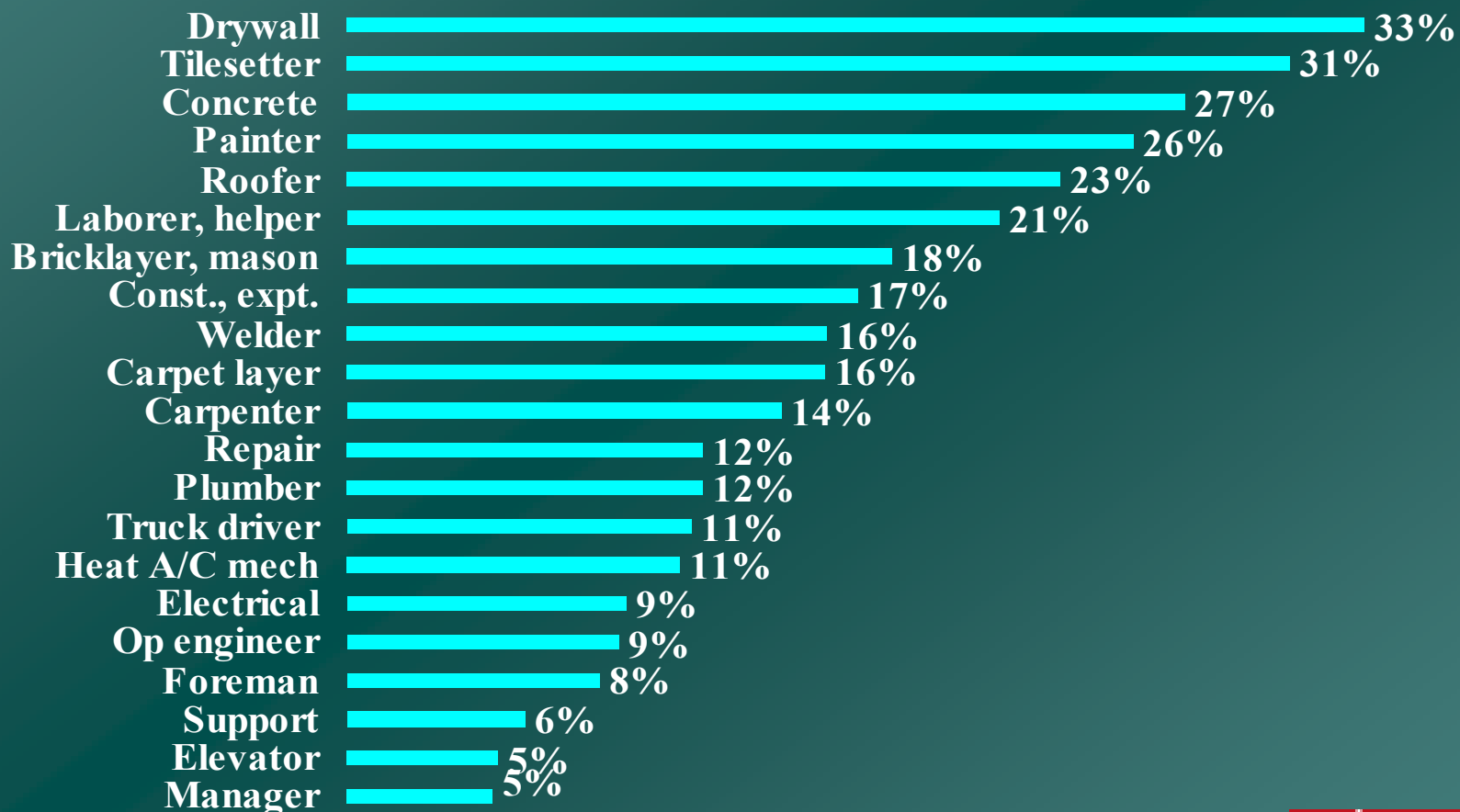
Distribution among occupations in construction, 2000



Source: Current Population Survey, 2000.

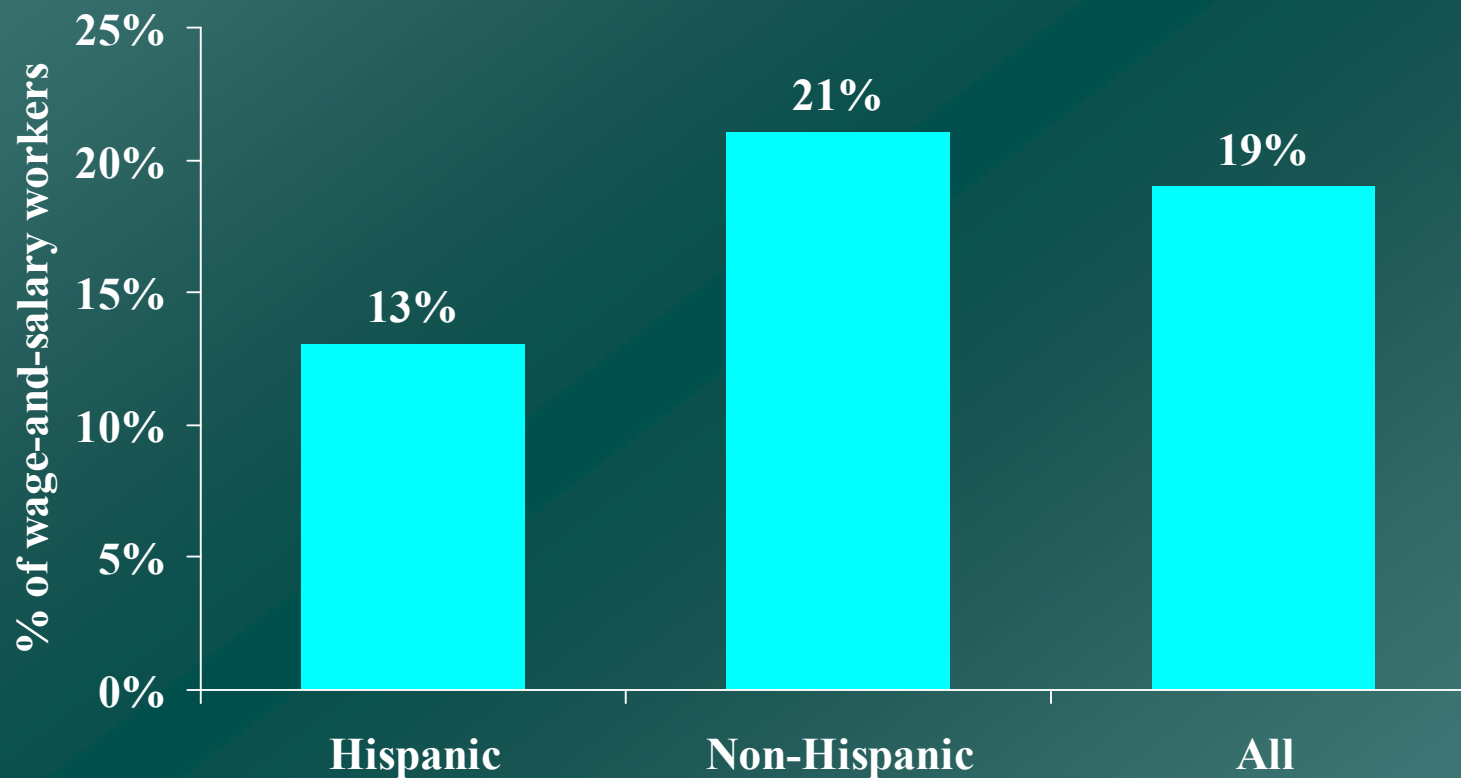
Hispanic workers as a percentage of each construction occupation, 1998-2000

% of occupation that is Hispanic

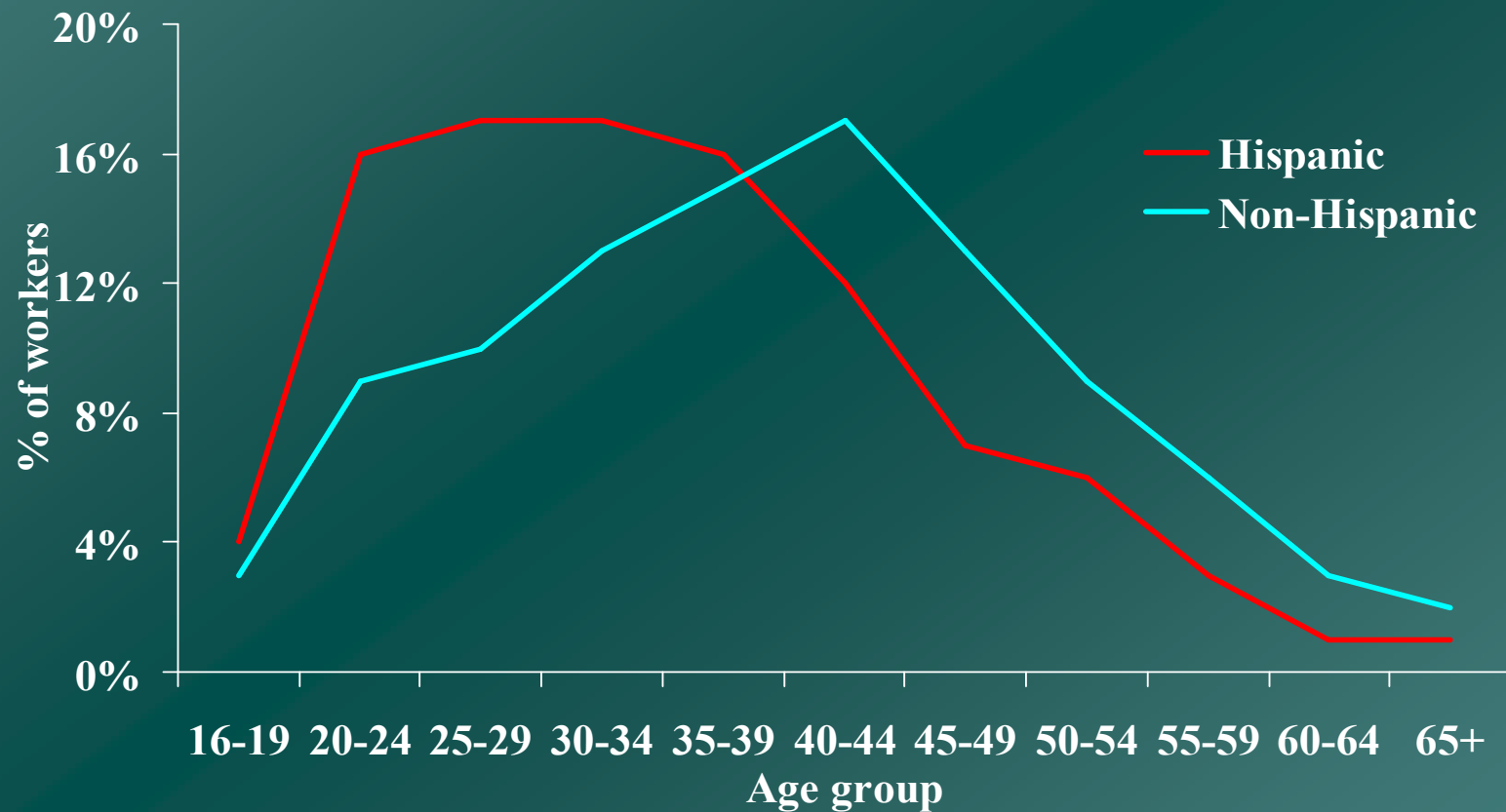


Source: Current Population Survey, 1980, 1990, and 2000.

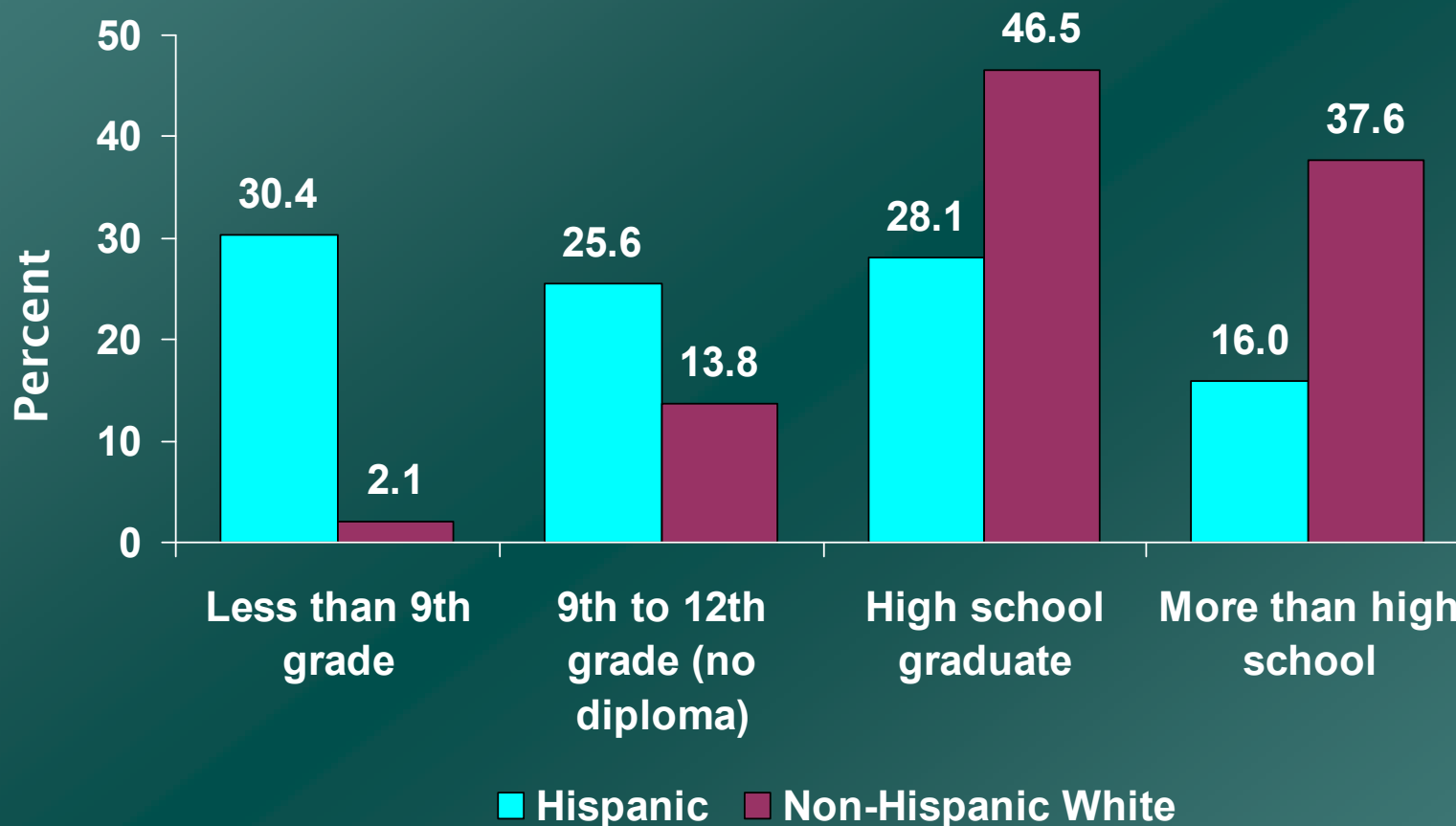
Union membership among Hispanic and non-Hispanic construction workers, 2000



Age distribution in construction, Hispanic and Non-Hispanic workers, 2000 (All types of employment)



Educational attainment, Hispanic and non-Hispanic, 2000

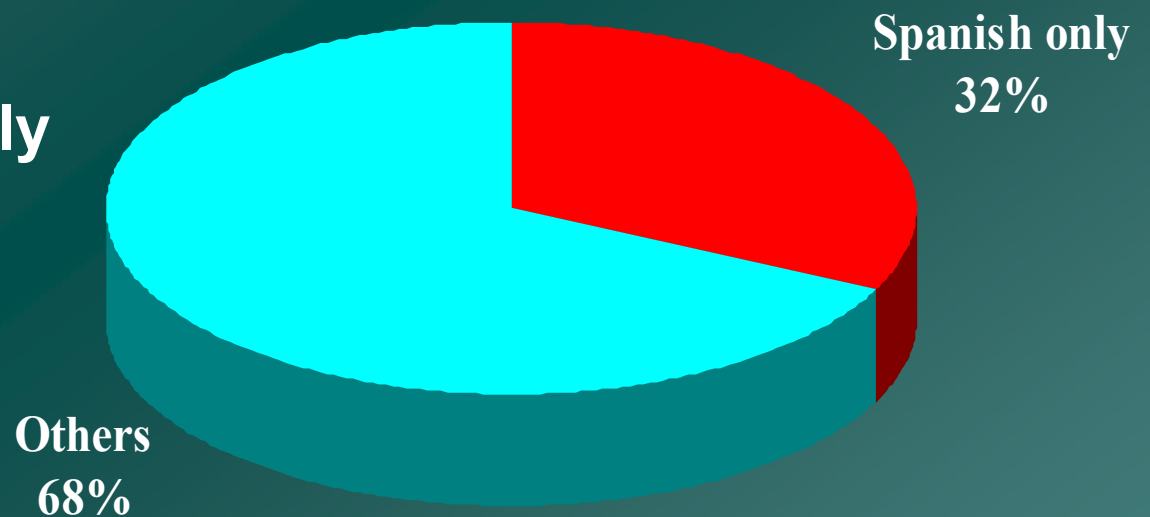


Source: Current Population Survey, 2000

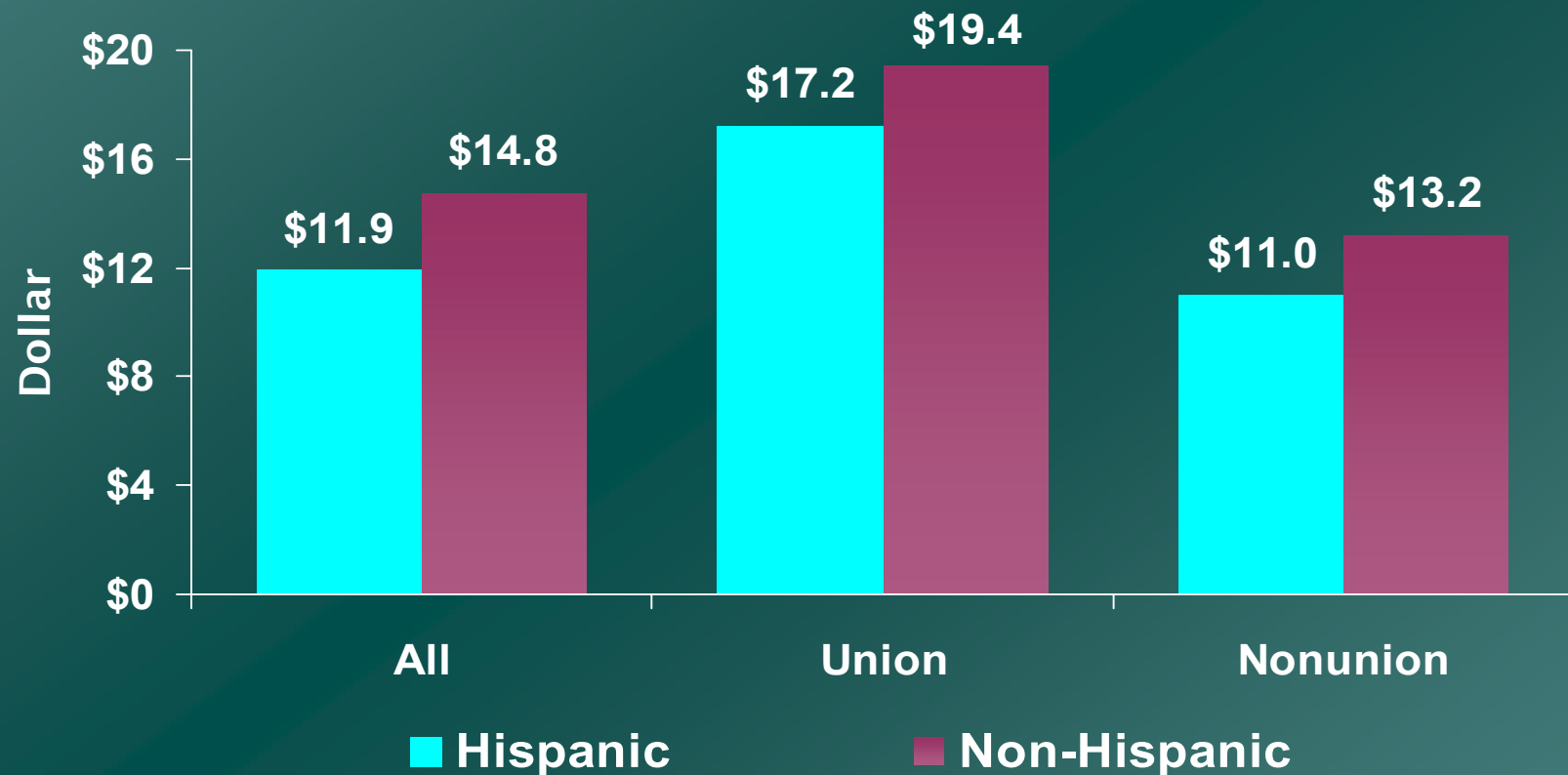
Percentage of Hispanic construction workers who speak Spanish

452,840

**Hispanic workers
speak Spanish only**

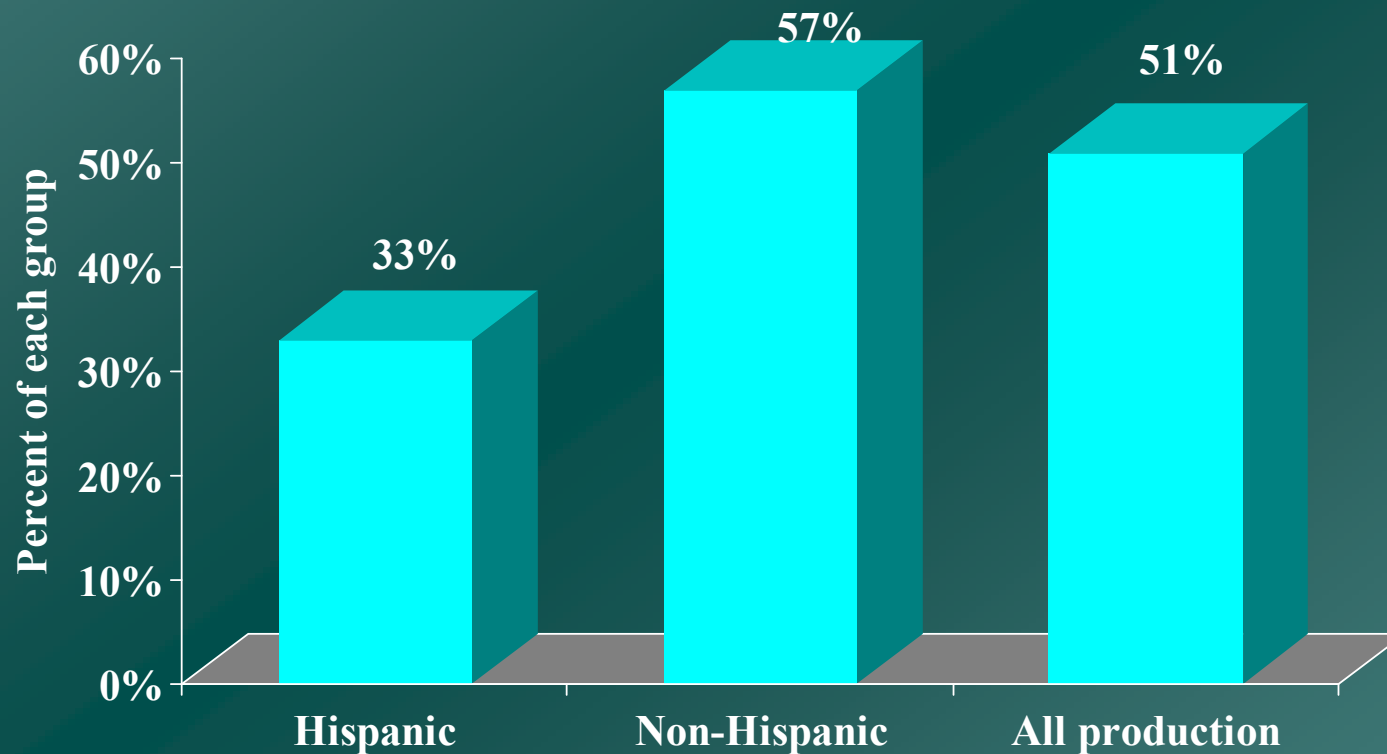


Hourly wage in construction by union status, 2000



Source: Current Population Survey, 2000.

Percentage of construction workers with health insurance provided by employer / union, 2000



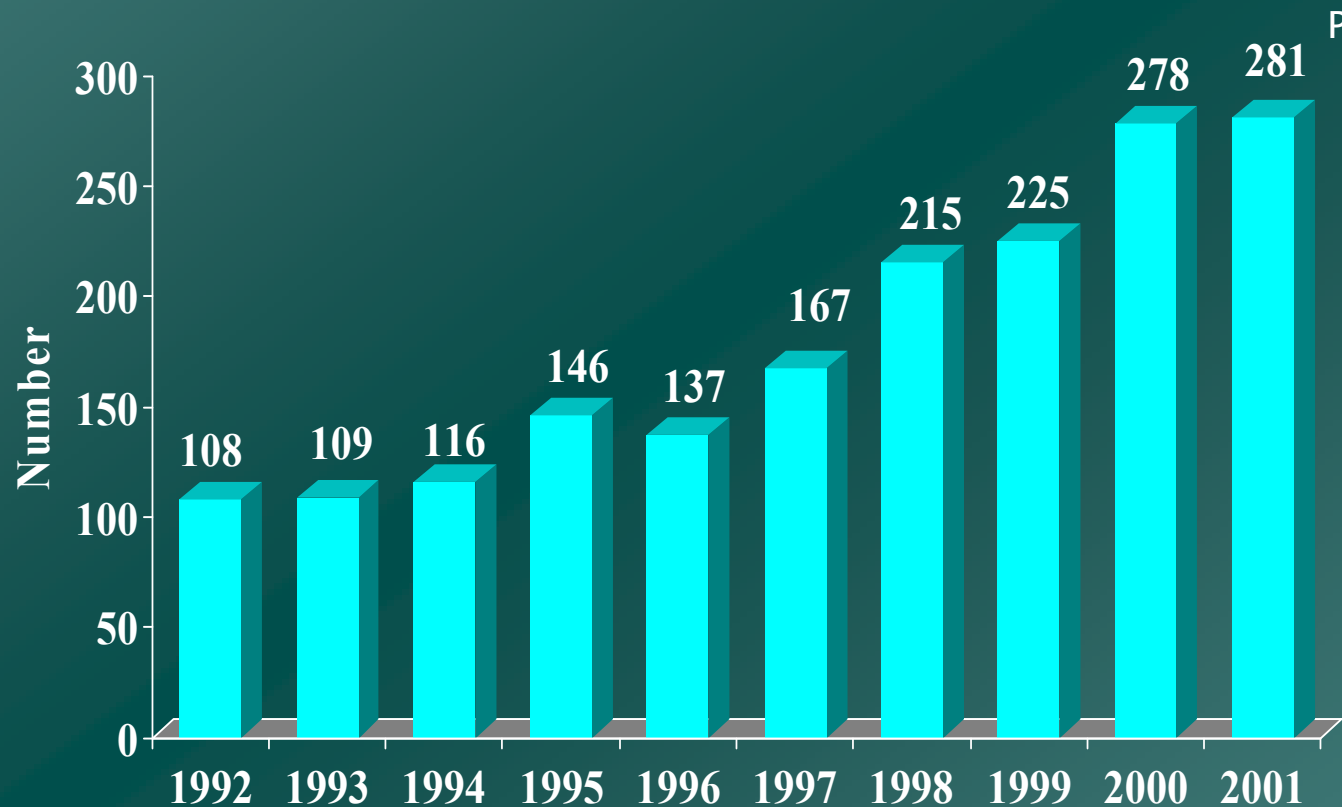
Fatal occupational injuries by industry, 2000



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, <http://data.bls.gov/servlet/>

P: preliminary

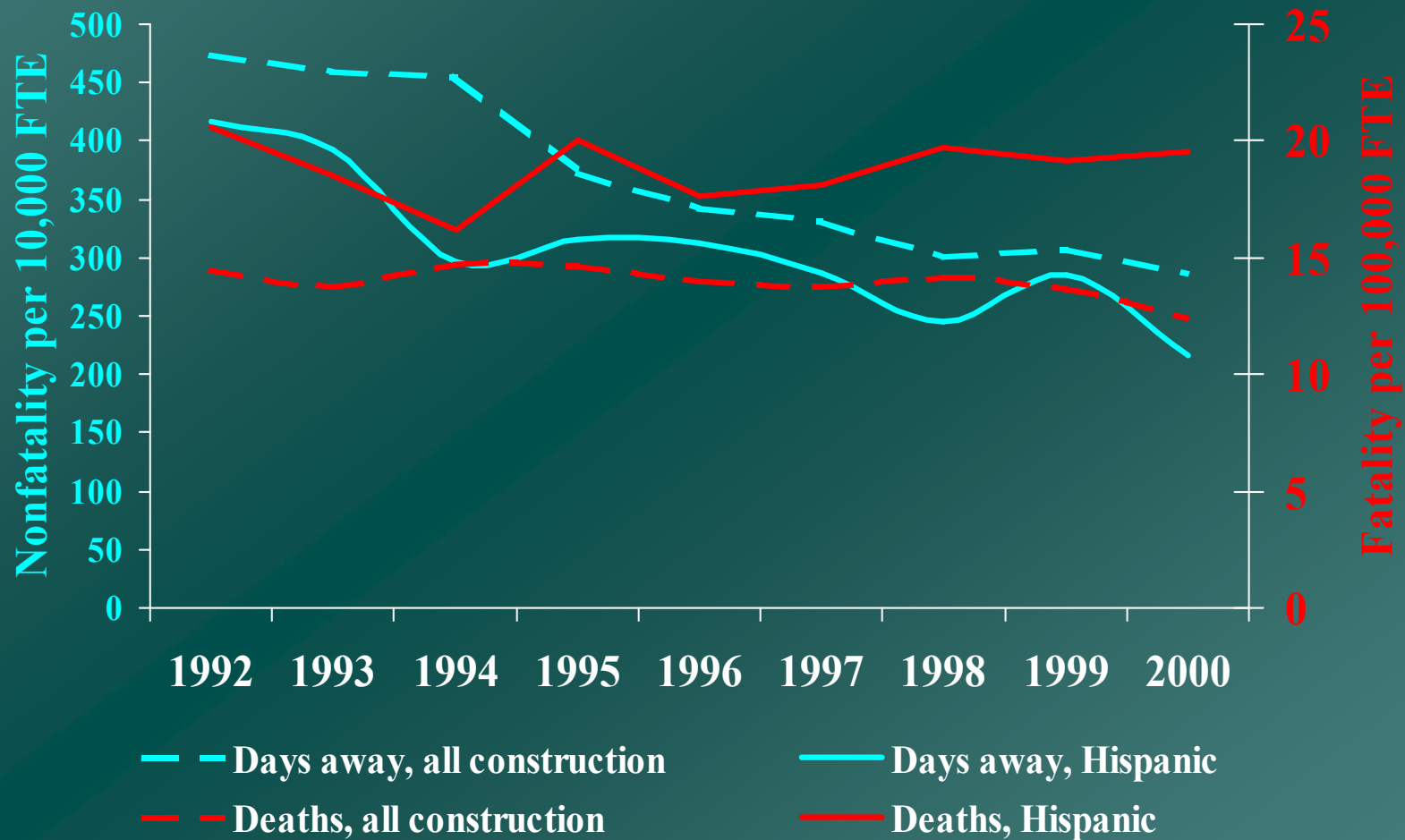
Fatal occupational injuries of Hispanic construction workers, 1992-2001



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, <http://data.bls.gov/servlet/>

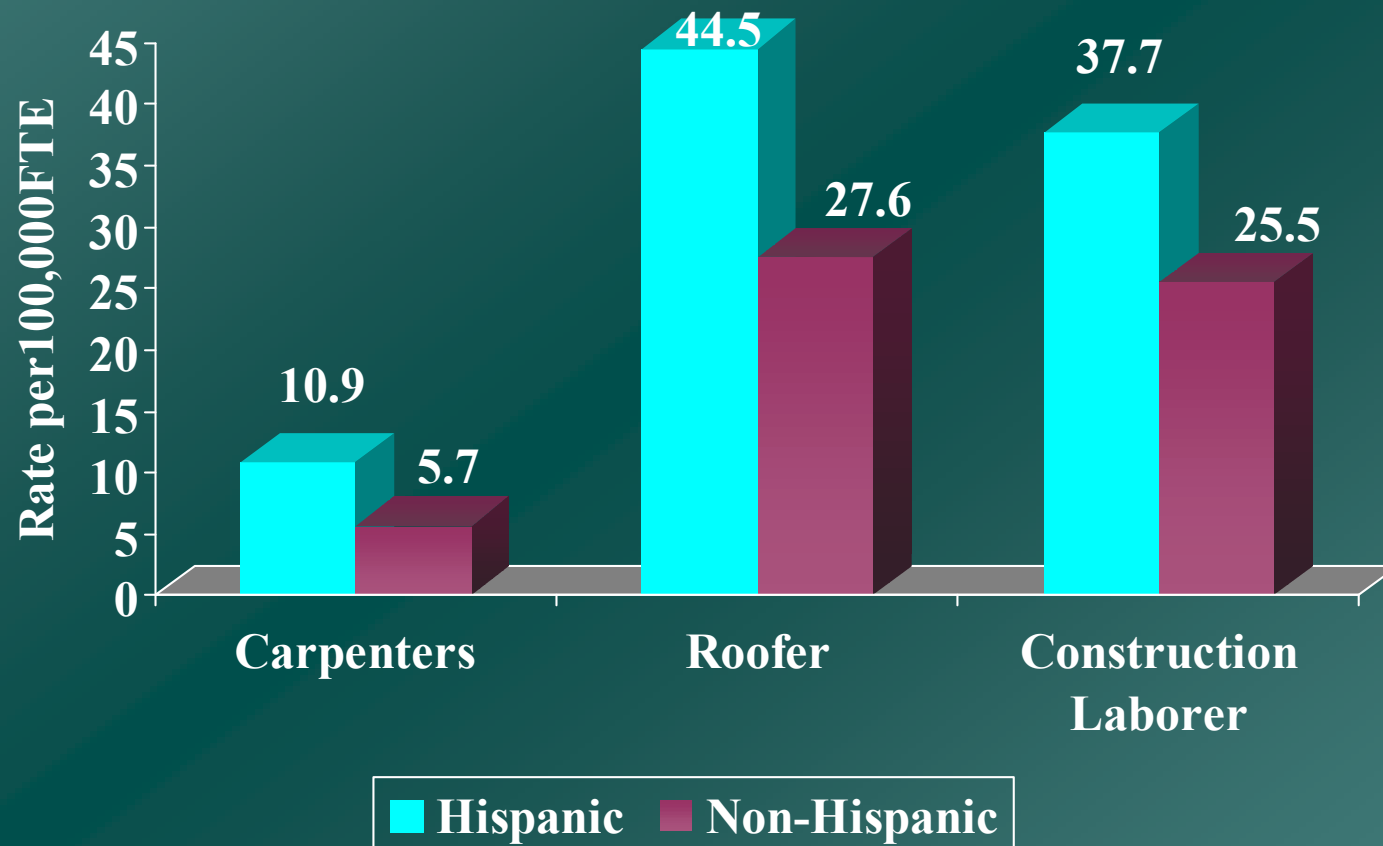
P: preliminary

Rates of fatal and non-fatal work-related injuries in construction, Hispanics vs. all workers, 1992-2000



Sources: CFOI and CPS, 1992-2000.

Fatal injury rates by selected occupation in construction, 2000



Relative Risk of Hispanic Fatal Injury 1996-2000 (95% C.I.)

Helpers, Constr Trade	2.31 (1.41-3.80)
Roofers	1.77 (1.38-2.28)
Drywall Installers	1.75 (0.95-3.25)
Carpenters	1.39 (1.08-1.79)
Construction Laborers	1.31 (1.17-1.46)

Hispanic Fatal Injuries 1996-2000 in Construction

Year	Hispanic Fatalities	RR (95% CI)
1996	137	1.48(1.24-1.77)
1997	167	1.44(1.22-1.70)
1998	215	1.82(1.57-2.12)
1999	225	1.62(1.40-1.88)
2000	278	1.84(1.60-2.10)

Percent of Fatalities from Falls, 1996-2000

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	Avg.
Fall, Lower Level						
Hispanic	35.0%	34.1%	38.6%	35.6%	38.9%	36.8%
Non-His	28.4	33.6	28.9	30.0	28.8	29.8
Fall, Other						
Hispanic	0.7%	1.2%	0.5%	0%	0.7%	0.7%
Non-His	0.7	0.4	0.9	0.7	0.4	0.6

Event & Nature of Fatal Injuries

- **Hispanic Construction Workers die more in falls to lower level (36.8% vs. 29.8%)**
- **Hispanic Construction Workers die more frequently of head injuries (30% vs 25%)**
- **Hispanic Construction Workers may be somewhat less likely to die in Vehicles**

Construction Fatal Injuries by Establishment Size, 1992-2001

	1-10 employees	11-20	21-50	51-99	100+
Hispanic	45.0%	13.0%	17.3%	9.4%	15.3%
Non- Hispanic	51.5%	11.8%	14.9%	8.0%	13.6%

Conclusions

- **Hispanic Construction Workers are in higher risk occupations**
- **Even considering their occupations, Hispanic Construction Workers are at significantly higher risk of fatal injury**
- **Higher rates of Falls to a lower level and associated head injuries are primary**
- **45% of Hispanic Construction Fatalities are in Employers ≤ 10 employees**

Consider Language & Culture in:

- Management and union services
- Worker involvement & communication
- Worker training
- Information (labels, documents, etc.)
- Knowledge and skill evaluation
- Research and IH/Safety services

For more information, please read:

The Construction Chart Book
The U.S. Construction Industry
and Its Workers

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(Third Edition)

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